

This article first appeared in the October, 2010 AKC Gazette and is reprinted with permission.

Pointers — October 2010 AKC Gazette

Continuing a look at coloration in the breed, begun in the July issue, our guest columnist is Pointer breeder Susan Thompson.

Solid-Colored Pointers

PART TWO

Most solids are hybrid solids, meaning that they carry the recessive for particolored. When bred to a particolored, roughly 50 percent of the offspring will be solid-colored, of course carrying the recessive for particolored. Obviously the particolored offspring, as recessives, will not produce solid nor carry for it. One can obtain a “pure for solid” individual by the mating of two hybrid solids. Roughly 75 percent of the offspring will be solid-colored, with approximately 25 percent being “pure for solid.” The only way to make a determination of that purity is through test breeding.

White markings of varying degree are found on solid-colored Pointers. The usual locations are the chin, throat, and chest, and there is sometimes a face blaze. White markings on the stomach, paws, or even the legs and tail-tip are not unusual. There are no faults as to coloration or markings in this breed. Consequently, evaluating the quality of a Pointer based on its coloration and markings shows a lack of knowledge of the breed standard.

This is a *very* rudimentary treatise of color genetics. It is an attempt to inform while keeping the subject matter extremely simple so that someone not specifically interested in genetics can still grasp the fundamentals of color breeding in Pointers. Concise information on color breeding is covered in *The Inheritance of Coat Color in Dogs*, published by Howell Book House, which can be ordered from booksellers.

In summary, solid-colored Pointers are beautiful and have been the subject of artists for centuries. They deserve recognition as an original coloration of the breed and equal consideration and appreciation, both in the show ring and in the field. We have an obligation to the breed to participate in the preservation of solid-colored Pointers. —S.T.

Thank you, Susan, for this informative column. Please visit the APC website at americanpointerclub.org for information on our wonderful breed.

—Helyne E. Medeiros, Marstons Mills, MA; seasydehm@aol.com